

Murther upon Murther:

Being a Full and True

RELATION

Horrid and Bloody

MURDER

Committed upon the Bodies of

Mrs. Sarah Hodges, Wife of Mr. Thomas Hodges

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith and Hannah Williams

the Loyal Coffee-House near Pell's Church at the
end of East Smith-field, on Saturday the 12th
this Instant January 1691

UPON the day aforesaid, about Twelve o'clock, a
woman that carries Ale and Beer to private Houses
came accidentally into a House called The Royal
Moose in Ratcliff High-way near St. Dunstons Church
business, when she came at the Door, the Window of the Chamber
locked, entered, where finding no body in the House, she
for some time, in expectation that some of the Family would come,
having tried her Patience, and seeing things yet about the House
Disorder, no Fire being kindled, so she began to think all was
well. She then called, but no body answering, she called to the
Neighbours, if they had seen any of the Family, or if any
was Mistress of the House; but they answering in the Negative, she
desired some body to go along with her into the House, for she said, she
found the Doors not locked, neither was any Fire on the Hearth,
besides calling and no body answered. The Neighbours admiring at

much as the Woman, what might be the cause that none of the Family appeared, entered the House; where passing through a Room or two, they came to a back Chamber, where they (to their great Astonishment) found Mrs. Sarah Hodges (Wife of Mr. Thomas Hodges) most Barbarously Murthered in her naked Bed, her Throat being cut, and the Ribs of her Breast broken, and the Orifice which this Fracture caused was at least two Inches Diameter. This is supposed to have been done with a Hammer, or some such like Weapon, &c.

Then going into another Chamber, they found likewise Murthered in most barbarous manner, one Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, a Lodger in the House aforesaid. She lay with her Arms clasped together, and her Face being upwards: whom the inhumane Murtherers had stabbed in at the Ear, and wounded her in several places about her Head, that she lay as it were Swimming in her Blood; She was in her naked Bed likewise. And just by her Bed-side, lay Murthered on the Boards, Hannah Williams, the Maid Servant of the House. Against this poor Innocent the Villains cut her Throat from Ear to Ear, and stabbed her in just above the Collar-Bone: She was found in her Cloaths by the Bed-side of the aforesaid Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, it is supposed that she was just going to Bed, but was put, by these execrable Villains, into an everlasting Sleep before she had time to call upon God for Salvation.

The Husband of this Mrs. Hodges, is now at Sea, a Mate of a Ship, and little thinks what a Tragedy has been acted in his House; and Mrs. Elizabeth Smith is likewise much to be pitied, being a fair piece of Nature's handiwork, and wherein were displayed, the unspeakable Workmanship of the Divine Creator, whose Days are cut off by these inhumane, barbarous, and bloody Villanies; and indeed I want Eloquence to give them suitable Testimonies. These Horrid Murders, after they had thus barbarously dispatched These poor Creatures, took off Mrs. Hodges Gold Chain from her Neck, Rings from her Fingers, and cut her Ears to take out her Pendants; as they likewise served Mrs. Smith, and Robbed the House of every thing valuable in it, and then Escaped, without being discovered. Though we make no question, but as the Devil owes them a Shame, he will speedily pay them. The Horrid Murders committed but seven days before upon these poor Innocents in the House of Captain Giddings (an account of which we have already given you) might have startled and deter'd them from perpetrating any further in such execrable Villanies. But their Consciences are dead, and they are given over by God Almighty, having not the Fear of him before their Eyes, that they eagerly pursue the Devils Course with open Arms, and no Remorse. Therefore of such as these let all honest Housekeepers beware. (The Mistress of the House) but desired some body to go along with her into the House for the said the doors not locked, and she was not in the House, and no body called, and no body answered. The Villains were admitted as usual.

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